



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**MEASUREMENTS AND ANALYSIS OF SELECTED AIR POLLUTANTS IN  
KUALA LUMPUR, KAJANG AND UNIVERSITI PERTANIAN MALAYSIA -  
WITH EMPHASIS ON SUSPENDED PARTICULATE MATTER**

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**FSAS 1987 1**

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by

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Dedicated to

GHAZINAH

SHAZRINAH

SHAZRIL

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	iv
LIST OF TABLES .....	vii
LIST OF FIGURES .....	viii
LIST OF PLATES .....	xiv
LIST OF APPENDICES .....	xv
ABSTRACT .....	xvi
ABSTRAK .....	xix
CHAPTER ONE. INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Background Statement .....	1
1.2 Major Air Pollutants .....	2
1.2.1 Particulate Matter .....	3
1.2.2 Other Pollutants .....	4
1.3 Air Quality in Malaysia .....	6
1.4 Aims of the Study .....	7
CHAPTER TWO. REVIEW OF LITERATURE .....	9
2.1 Temporal Patterns .....	9
2.1.1 Diurnal Patterns .....	9
2.1.2 Seasonal Patterns .....	17
2.2 Meteorological Parameters .....	25
2.2.1 Wind Speed and Wind Direction .....	25
2.2.2 Atmospheric Stability .....	27
2.2.3 Precipitation Scavenging .....	31

2.3	Variation of Pollutant Levels with Height .....	32
2.4	Size of Atmospheric Particles .....	33
2.5	Carbon-containing Aerosols .....	34
CHAPTER THREE. MATERIALS AND METHODS .....		36
3.1	Location of Monitoring Sites .....	36
3.2	Methods of Measurement .....	40
3.2.1	Air Pollutants .....	41
3.2.2	Meteorological Parameters .....	53
3.3	Fine and Coarse Particulate Sampling .....	57
3.4	Organic and Elemental Carbon Analysis .....	62
3.5	Analysis of SPM Concentration with Height .....	62
CHAPTER FOUR. TEMPORAL PATTERNS AND FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF THE AIR POLLUTANTS .....		63
4.1	The Weather of the Kelang Valley - a brief outline .....	63
4.2	Diurnal Patterns .....	64
4.2.1	Kuala Lumpur .....	64
4.2.2	Universiti Pertanian Malaysia .....	74
4.2.3	Kajang .....	83
4.3	Seasonal Patterns .....	88
4.4	Frequency Distribution Analysis .....	97
CHAPTER FIVE. ANALYSIS OF THE HIGH PARTICULATE CONCENTRATION PERIOD IN THE KELANG VALLEY - A CASE STUDY IN UNIVERSITI PERTANIAN MALAYSIA .....		106
5.1	Daily Variations in SPM Concentration during the Peak Period .....	106



5.2	Diurnal Variations in SPM Concentration during the Peak Period .....	112
5.3	The Influence of Meteorological Variables on the Diurnal Variations in SPM Concentration during the Peak Period .....	118
5.4	Conclusion from the Case Study .....	122
CHAPTER SIX. ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS ON SUSPENDED PARTICULATE MATTER .....		123
6.1	Fine and Coarse Fraction Analysis .....	123
6.2	Analysis on the Elemental and Organic Carbon Content .....	127
6.3	Groundlevel and Rooftop SPM Concentrations .....	133
6.4	Comparison of Particulate Matter Measurement .....	136
6.4.1	Comparison between the HVS and the beta dust monitor .....	137
6.4.2	Comparison between the HVS and the HVCI .....	138
6.4.3	Comparison between the HVCI and the beta dust monitor .....	141
6.4.4	Analysis of HVCI (Fine):HVS and Beta:HVS particulate concentrations .....	141
6.4.5	Summary .....	147
CHAPTER SEVEN. CONCLUSION .....		149
7.1	Findings of the Study .....	149
7.2	Suggestions for Future Research .....	152
REFERENCES .....		154
APPENDICES .....		161



## LIST OF TABLES

<u>TABLE</u>	<u>Page</u>
1 Parameters Measured at Each Station .....	40
2 Average Number of Raindays in Each Month of the Year (1951-1975) .....	112
3 Measurement of SPM Concentrations by the High Volume Cascade Impactor .....	123
4 SPM Measurements in Pulau Langkawi using the High Volume Cascade Impactor .....	126
5 Fine and Coarse Aerosol Concentrations from Some Urban Measurements compared to Clean Areas (after National Research Council, 1979) .....	127
6 SPM Measurements at City Hall using the High Volume Cascade Impactor .....	128
7 Proportions of Elemental and Organic Carbon in the Sampled Filters .....	128
8 Proportions of Elemental and Organic Carbon in the Fine and Coarse Fractions .....	129
9 Elemental and Organic Carbon Ratio in the Fine and Coarse Fractions .....	131
10 Elemental and Organic Carbon Ratio in the Total Carbon Composition .....	131
11 Proportion of Total Carbon in the SPM Concentrations .....	133
12 Groundlevel and Rooftop Measurements of SPM using the High Volume Sampler .....	134
13 Measurements of SPM Concentrations by the Different Instruments .....	137
14 Proportion of Beta:HVS and HVCi (Fine):HVS expressed as a Percentage (%) .....	144



## LIST OF FIGURES

<u>FIGURE</u>	<u>Page</u>
1	Monthly means of hourly SO <sub>2</sub> concentrations in Watertown, MA, for December 1978 (Spengler, 1980) ..... 11
2	Monthly means of hourly SO <sub>2</sub> concentrations in Kingston, in January 1975 (USEPA, 1978) ..... 12
3	Monthly means of hourly SO <sub>2</sub> concentrations in St. Louis (Spengler, 1980) ..... 13
4	Diurnal variations in NO, NO <sub>2</sub> and O <sub>3</sub> concentrations in Central City, St. Louis, USA (after RAPS, 1976) ..... 16
5	One-hour NO <sub>2</sub> concentrations during three days of high pollution in Los Angeles, California, USA (SAROAD, 1975) ..... 18
6	NO <sub>2</sub> concentrations at an urban centre in St. Louis, Missouri, January 1976 (RAPS, 1976) ..... 19
7	Seasonal variations in SO <sub>2</sub> levels in Steubenville, USA (Spengler, 1980) ..... 20
8	Seasonal variations in SO <sub>2</sub> levels in St. Louis, USA (Spengler, 1980) ..... 21
9	Seasonal variations in urban, suburban and rural areas for fine particulates ( $<2.5 \mu\text{m}$ ) (after Trijonis <i>et al.</i> , 1980) ..... 23
10	Mean monthly suspended particulate and rainfall in Petaling Jaya (1977–1982) (Chow and Lim, 1984) ..... 24
11	The average diurnal variation of the vertical temperature structure (the dashed line represents the adiabatic lapse rate) (after Holland, 1953) ..... 28



12	Diurnal variation of the temperature difference as a function of cloud cover and wind speed (after Singer and Raynor, 1957) .....	30
13	Locations of Kuala Lumpur, UPM and Kajang in the Kelang Valley .....	37
14	MCSAM station in City Hall, Kuala Lumpur .....	38
15	MCSAM station in Kajang .....	42
16	MCSAM station in Universiti Pertanian Malaysia .....	43
17	Schematic diagram of chemiluminescent detector for NO <sub>2</sub> and NO .....	47
18	Schematic diagram of ultra-violet fluorescence SO <sub>2</sub> analyzer .....	49
19	Schematic diagram of the non-dispersive infra-red (NDIR) analyzer .....	51
20	Flow diagram of O <sub>3</sub> analyzer .....	52
21	Schematic diagram of Beta dust monitor .....	54
22	Schematic diagram of the high volume cascade impactor .....	59
23	Thermal carbon analyzer .....	60
24	Diurnal variations in NO <sub>x</sub> and CO concentrations in Kuala Lumpur (December 1984–March 1985) .....	65
25	Diurnal variations in NO <sub>x</sub> , CO, SO <sub>2</sub> and SPM concentrations in Kuala Lumpur (April–May 1985) .....	66
26	Diurnal variations in NO <sub>x</sub> , CO, SO <sub>2</sub> and SPM concentrations in Kuala Lumpur (June–September 1985) .....	67
27	Diurnal variations in NO <sub>x</sub> , CO, SO <sub>2</sub> and SPM concentrations in Kuala Lumpur (October–November 1985) .....	68

28	Diurnal variations in NO, NO <sub>2</sub> and O <sub>3</sub> concentrations in Kuala Lumpur (December 1984–March 1985) .....	70
29	Diurnal variations in NO, NO <sub>2</sub> and O <sub>3</sub> concentrations in Kuala Lumpur (April–May 1985) .....	71
30	Diurnal variations in NO, NO <sub>2</sub> and O <sub>3</sub> concentrations in Kuala Lumpur (June–September 1985) .....	72
31	Diurnal variations in NO, NO <sub>2</sub> and O <sub>3</sub> concentrations in Kuala Lumpur (October–November 1985) .....	73
32	Diurnal variations in NO <sub>x</sub> and SPM concentrations in UPM (December 1984–March 1985) .....	75
33	Diurnal variations in NO <sub>x</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> and SPM concentrations in UPM (April–May 1985) .....	76
34	Diurnal variations in NO <sub>x</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> and SPM concentrations in UPM (June–September 1985) .....	77
35	Diurnal variations in NO <sub>x</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> and SPM concentrations in UPM (October–November 1985) .....	78
36	Diurnal variations in NO, NO <sub>2</sub> and O <sub>3</sub> concentrations in UPM (December 1984–March 1985) .....	79
37	Diurnal variations in NO, NO <sub>2</sub> and O <sub>3</sub> concentrations in UPM (April–May 1985) .....	80
38	Diurnal variations in NO, NO <sub>2</sub> and O <sub>3</sub> concentrations in UPM (June–September 1985) .....	81
39	Diurnal variations in NO, NO <sub>2</sub> and O <sub>3</sub> concentrations in UPM (October–November 1985) .....	82
40	Diurnal variations in NO <sub>x</sub> and SPM concentrations in Kajang (December 1984–March 1985) .....	84

41	Diurnal variations in NO <sub>x</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> and SPM concentrations in Kajang (April–May 1985) .....	85
42	Diurnal variations in NO <sub>x</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> and SPM concentrations in Kajang (June–September 1985) .....	86
43	Diurnal variations in NO <sub>x</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> and SPM concentrations in Kajang (October–November 1985) .....	87
44	Diurnal variations in NO, NO <sub>2</sub> and O <sub>3</sub> concentrations in Kajang (December 1984–March 1985) .....	89
45	Diurnal variations in NO, NO <sub>2</sub> and O <sub>3</sub> concentrations in Kajang (April–May 1985) .....	90
46	Diurnal variations in NO, NO <sub>2</sub> and O <sub>3</sub> concentrations in Kajang (June–September 1985) .....	91
47	Diurnal variations in NO, NO <sub>2</sub> and O <sub>3</sub> concentrations in Kajang (October–November 1985) .....	92
48	Average monthly concentrations of NO <sub>x</sub> , CO and SPM; and monthly average of daily maximum value of O <sub>3</sub> in Kuala Lumpur .....	93
49	Average monthly concentrations of NO <sub>x</sub> and SPM; and monthly average of daily maximum value of O <sub>3</sub> in Kajang .....	94
50	Average monthly concentrations of NO <sub>x</sub> and SPM; and monthly average of daily maximum value of O <sub>3</sub> in UPM .....	95
51	Cumulative frequency distribution of the carbon monoxide levels in Kuala Lumpur (1985) .....	98
52	Cumulative frequency distribution of the oxides of nitrogen levels in Kuala Lumpur, Kajang and UPM (1985) .....	99
53	Cumulative frequency distribution of the nitric oxide levels in Kuala Lumpur, Kajang and UPM (10 April – 5 May 1985) .....	100

54	Cumulative frequency distribution of the nitrogen dioxide levels in Kuala Lumpur, Kajang and UPM (10 April – 5 May 1985) .....	101
55	Cumulative frequency distribution of the suspended particulate matter levels in Kuala Lumpur, Kajang and UPM (1985) .....	102
56	Correllogram of oxides of nitrogen, suspended particulate matter and carbon monoxide .....	103
57	Cumulative frequency distribution of the sulphur dioxide levels in Kuala Lumpur, Kajang and UPM (10 April – 5 May 1985) .....	104
58	Average daily values of SPM, relative humidity, temp. drop and rainfall at UPM in June–July 1985 .....	107
59	Average daily values of SPM, relative humidity, temp. drop and rainfall at Kajang in June–July 1985 .....	109
60	Average daily values of SPM, relative humidity, temp. drop and rainfall at UPM in January 1985 .....	110
61	Diurnal variations in SPM concentration during peak days in January 1985 .....	113
62	Diurnal variations in SPM concentration during peak and non-peak period in January 1985 .....	115
63	Diurnal variations in SPM concentration during peak days in June–July 1985 .....	116
64	Diurnal variations in SPM concentration during peak and non-peak period in June–July 1985 .....	117
65	Recorder chart of UPM on the 28th. June .....	119
66	Recorder chart of UPM on the 22nd. January .....	121

67	Correlation between SPM and fine fraction concentration .....	125
68	Physical and chemical nature of suspended particulates in Osaka, Japan (after Kimoto, 1983) .....	130
69	Correlation between the SPM levels measured at groundlevel and rooftop .....	135
70	Correlation between HVS and Beta particulate concentrations .....	139
71	Correlation between HVS and HVCI particulate concentrations .....	140
72	Correlation between HVCI and Beta particulate concentrations .....	142
73	Correlation between HVCI (Fine) and Beta particulate concentrations .....	143
74	Correlation between HVS particulate concentration and Beta/HVS proportion .....	145
75	Correlation between HVS particulate concentration and HVCI (Fine)/HVS proportion .....	146





## LIST OF PLATES

<u>PLATE</u>	<u>Page</u>
I	Monitoring station in City Hall, Kuala Lumpur (indicated by arrow) ..... 39
II	Sampling inlet ..... 39
III	Monitoring station in Kajang ..... 44
IV	Sampling inlet in UPM (indicated by arrow) ..... 44
V	MCSAM unit ..... 45
VI	Wind vane – cup anemometer assembly ..... 56
VII	Hygro-thermometer assembly inside a Stevenson screen ..... 56
VIII	Tipping bucket rain gauge assembly ..... 58
IX	High volume cascade impactor Model 130 ..... 58
X	External view of the high volume sampler ..... 61
XI	Internal view of the high volume sampler ..... 61



## LIST OF APPENDICES

<u>APPENDIX</u>		<u>Page</u>
A	An example of a MCSAM printout .....	161
B	Gravimetric determination - suspended particulate .....	162
C	Publications and presentations resulting from this work .....	163



An abstract of the thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Pertanian Malaysia in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science.

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by

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May, 1987

Supervisor : Professor Rikita Inouye

Faculty : Science and Environmental Studies

Continuous monitoring of air pollutants in Malaysia was, until recently, virtually non-existent. The installation of three micro-computer system for air monitoring (MCSAM) units , each in Kuala Lumpur, Kajang and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM), had made it possible to monitor selected air pollutants continuously.

From the data acquired from these monitoring systems, several observations were noted. Suspended particulate matter (SPM), oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO) and, to a small extent, sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), showed two distinct peaks in their diurnal patterns. These peaks were evident in the morning hours



and late evenings. Diurnal patterns of nitric oxide (NO), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) were "normal", with nitric oxide reaching its peak first, followed by nitrogen dioxide, and finally by ozone several hours later.

While these diurnal patterns differed slightly by the locations, they exhibited remarkable similarity by the seasons (namely, the northeast monsoon, the southwest monsoon, and the two transitional seasons).

Although there appeared to be no clear seasonal variations for oxides of nitrogen and ozone, carbon monoxide, on the other hand, remained fairly unchanged throughout the months. Suspended particulate matter, however, showed a distinct peak sometime in the middle of the year. The prolonged dry spell, the formation of strong ground based inversions, and the accompanying local meteorology, were believed to have accounted for the high particulate levels.

From the frequency distribution analysis, weekday levels of carbon monoxide and oxides of nitrogen were observed to be consistently higher than the corresponding weekend/holiday levels. For suspended particulate matter, however, there were no noticeable differences between weekday and weekend/holiday levels, due, in part, to the longer residence time of the particulates in the air.

Additional analysis on suspended particulate matter was also carried out, using different instruments. From readings obtained by the high volume cascade impactor, it was observed that fine



fractions formed a very dominant portion of the suspended particulate matter (74.8 percent of the mean particulate concentration). The organic carbon content in the particulates was also found to be relatively high. Corresponding measurements of rooftop and groundlevel particulate concentrations showed no significant difference.

A comparative study between the different particulate monitoring instruments (namely, the high volume sampler, the high volume cascade impactor, and the beta dust monitor) showed that they relate satisfactorily with one another.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Pertanian Malaysia sebagai memenuhi sebahagian daripada keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains.

MEASUREMENTS AND ANALYSIS OF SELECTED AIR POLLUTANTS IN KUALA LUMPUR, KAJANG AND UNIVERSITI PERTANIAN MALAYSIA - WITH EMPHASIS ON SUSPENDED PARTICULATE MATTER

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Mei, 1987

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Pengawasan berterusan bahan-bahan pencemar udara di Malaysia, sehingga kebelakangan ini, boleh dikatakan tidak ada. Pemasangan tiga buah unit sistem mikro-komputer untuk pengawasan udara (MCSAM), tiap-tiap satu di Kuala Lumpur, Kajang dan Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM) telah membolehkan pengawasan dilakukan secara berterusan terhadap beberapa bahan-bahan pencemar udara yang dipilih.

Daripada data yang diperolehi dari sistem tersebut, beberapa pemerhatian telah dibuat. Partikel-partikel ampaian, oksid-oksida

nitrogen, karbon monoksida dan, pada tahap yang kecil, sulfur dioksida, menunjukkan dua puncak yang jelas didalam pola harian mereka. Puncak-puncak tersebut adalah ketara diwaktu pagi dan lewat petang. Pola harian nitrik oksida, nitrogen dioksida dan ozon adalah "normal", dimana nitrik oksida memuncak dahulu, diikuti oleh nitrogen dioksida dan akhirnya oleh ozon beberapa jam kemudian.

Walaupun pola harian tersebut berlainan sedikit dari tempat ke tempat, namun mereka menunjukkan keserupaan yang agak istimewa dari musim ke musim (yaitu, monsun timur laut, monsun barat daya, dan dua musim peralihan).

Perubahan kepada paras oksid-oksida nitrogen dan ozon tidaklah jelas dari bulan ke bulan. Karbon monoksida pula menunjukkan paras yang hampir serupa dari bulan ke bulan. Partikel-partikel ampaian, bagaimanapun, menunjukkan puncak yang jelas di pertengahan tahun. Musim kemarau yang berlanjutan, pembentukan inversi yang kuat dari permukaan tanah, serta pengaruh meteorologi tempatan yang berikutan, telah dipercayai menyebabkan paras partikel-partikel menjadi tinggi.

Daripada analisis taburan kekerapan, paras karbon monoksida dan oksid-oksida nitrogen pada hari "kerja" didapati lebih tinggi daripada hari minggu/hari cuti. Untuk partikel-partikel ampaian, bagaimanapun, perbezaan sedemikian tidak ketara. Ini mungkin disebabkan, pada sebahagian besar, oleh masa kediaman diudara yang agak panjang untuk partikel-partikel tersebut.

Analisis tambahan keatas partikel-partikel ampaian telah juga dijalankan dengan menggunakan alat-alat yang lain. Daripada bacaan-bacaan yang diperolehi oleh "high volume cascade impactor", didapati bahawa pecahan halus merupakan bahagian yang paling dominan didalam partikel-partikel ampaian (74.8 peratus dari kepekatan purata partikel-partikel tersebut). Kandungan karbon organik didalam partikel-partikel ampaian juga didapati tinggi. Pengukuran kepekatan partikel-partikel ampaian diatas bumbung dan dipermukaan tanah tidak menunjukkan perbezaan yang bererti.

Kajian perbandingan diantara alat-alat yang digunakan untuk mengukur kepekatan partikel-partikel ampaian (yaitu, "high volume sampler", "high volume cascade impactor", dan "beta dust monitor") menunjukkan hubungan yang memuaskan diantara satu sama lain.



## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

---

#### 1.1 BACKGROUND STATEMENT

---

The atmosphere that surrounds our Earth is one key factor that has made it possible for life to exist on it. The average human makes use of about 30 pounds of air each day, using it to oxidize food for energy and warmth (Lynn, 1976). Because it surrounds us so intimately, we have used it without thought -- to burn the food in our bodies, to burn fuel in our furnaces and to burn petroleum in our car. And almost equally without thought, we have used it to carry away our wastes -- wastes from the furnaces and the car and from our thousand other activities. The atmosphere is, however, limited; although it seems essentially infinite from our individual human perspective, only a relatively thin layer is accessible to us for our use in sustaining life and diluting wastes.

Most of us are prepared to accept some environmental deterioration in exchange for a higher standard of living and a greater abundance of consumer goods. But, as living standards rise, man-made air pollution is seen first as a major irritation and then as a threat to the quality of life. Excessive pollution can affect health and certain types of pollution can even render some areas unfit for normal habitation. Air pollution has thus